

these wonderful and generally beautiful creatures, has led me to consider the possibility of preserving their eggs for a sufficiently long period to allow of their being brought from distant places and afterwards hatched. We might thus be able to obtain some of the more delicate species, and many perhaps that a long sea voyage would prevent our obtaining by any other means.

The mere keeping fresh and sweet the eggs of birds has been accomplished in many ways: for instance, they will keep for a long period imbedded in lime and water, or in fat or salt; but by these means the vitality is destroyed. It appears to me, therefore, to be essentially necessary, not only to prevent evaporation, but also to keep the texture and surface of the shell in its pure and perfect condition. To accomplish this object the eggs must be newly laid, or nearly so, and the following is the best method of preserving them.

Obtain the gut of any animal whose intestine is large enough to admit the egg intended to be preserved, and, having carefully cleaned the gut and rendered it free from fat, dry it as much as possible in powdered chalk or other earthy matter. Pass the egg into the gut, tying it close to the shell at both ends of the egg, and hang it up in a *cool, dry place* until it is quite dry. Two, three, or more eggs can be tied in the same gut like a string of beads, or they can be tied separately. When thoroughly dry, they may be packed up in a box with oats, wheat, or any *other dry grain or seeds*, until the box is quite full. The object in having the box full is for the great convenience of turning the eggs. This is accomplished by turning the box bottom upwards, which should be done occasionally. Thus the whole of the eggs may be effectually turned with very little trouble. The eggs thus packed must be kept in a dry, cool place, and ought not to be taken out or unpacked before the means are at hand for hatching them. Upon wishing to place them under a hen, or otherwise, if the dry gut be cut with a sharp knife, it will peel off without in any way injuring the shell of the egg.

I was successful in hatching and rearing the young from some eggs kept three months in this manner, and I have no doubt that under favourable circumstances they may be kept for a longer period.

7. ON THE REPTILES AND FISHES COLLECTED BY THE REV. H. B. TRISTRAM IN NORTHERN AFRICA. BY DR. A. GÜNTHER, FOR. MEMB. ZOOL. SOC.

(Pisces, Pl. IX.)

A small collection of Reptiles and Fishes, made by the Rev. H. B. Tristram in the Desert, southwards of Algeria and Tunis, and kindly forwarded by him for my examination, has served to give valuable information on the southward extent of several known species, and proves to contain two others new to science. The collection is composed of twelve Reptiles and two Fishes, most of the species being represented by several specimens.

REPTILIA.

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| 1. <i>Chamæleo vulgaris</i> . | 7. <i>Scincus officinalis</i> . |
| 2. <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> . | 8. <i>Gongylus ocellatus</i> . |
| 3. <i>Uromastix spinipes</i> . | 9. <i>Seps tridactylus</i> . |
| 4. <i>Agama colonorum</i> . | 10. <i>Coronella cucullata</i> . |
| 5. <i>Lacerta ocellata</i> . | 11. <i>Rana esculenta</i> . |
| 6. <i>Zootoca deserti</i> , n. sp. | 12. <i>Bufo viridis</i> . |

PISCES.

1. *Haligenes tristrami*, n. sp. 2. *Cyprinodon dispar*.

I first proceed to give descriptions of the new species.

ZOOTOCA DESERTI, Gthr.

Diagnosis.—The posterior portion of the vertical shield very narrow, the width of the interorbital space being one-third only of that of the superciliary plate. Twelve longitudinal series of rhombic ventral shields. Above greenish-blue, reticulated with black.

Hab. N'Goussa, oasis between Waregla and the M'zab Country, Southern Sahara.

Description.—This species may be readily distinguished from all the other *Lacertæ* and *Zootocæ* by its very narrow interorbital space. 1. The rostral is obtusely conical. 2. The nostril is formed by three plates: the superior nasal, which forms a suture with its fellow behind the rostral, the first upper labial, and a single small posterior nasal. 3. There are three frontal plates, a single anterior one, six-sided, broader than long, with a longitudinal impression, and a pair of posterior ones. 4. The vertical is cuneiform, its anterior portion being broadest, with a longitudinal impression; it tapers posteriorly, and is very narrow between the orbits. 5. The occipital region is covered by two pairs of plates, one pair behind the other; there is a small plate in the centre of their meeting angles; the plates of the anterior pair are triangular, those of the posterior quadrangular. 6. The roof of the orbit is formed by a pair of semi-elliptical superciliaries, in front of which is a small triangular plate; the orbital margin itself is bordered by two series of very small scales. 7. One loreal and one ante-orbital, the latter being bent on the upper surface of the head, but not reaching to the vertical. The lower eyelid is opaque and covered by very minute scales. There is a long, low, triangular plate below the eye (suborbital), interrupting the series of the upper labials. 8. Four upper labials before, and four much smaller ones behind the sub-orbital. 9. Six lower labials; the chin-shields are arranged as usually in the species of this genus, without showing any peculiarity. 10. The upper portion of the cheeks is granular, like the back; the lower is covered with small plates.

The collar-fold is shallow, and formed by scales of moderate size; a very indistinct groove reaches from one ear to the other across the throat. The upper and lateral parts of the extremities and of the body are granular; the ventral shields are nearly regular rhombs and arranged in twelve longitudinal series. The space between the